

Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their effort and skills to help others in a time of need



Payson Canyon Rescue

Saturday 03 June 2023, Dave Becar KI6OSS was just wrapping up his communication tasks in the *Eagle Mountain Pony Express Days* parade.

I drove home about 12:30 pm and went down to my shack to write up a small report of our event and the support team. While preparing my report, I turned on my dual-band mobile radio just monitoring a local repeater. Around 1 pm, I heard James KK7AVS asking for a signal check. I responded to his call and gave him a favorable report.

James proceeded to tell Dave that he was in his pickup truck way up *Payson Canyon*, and needed some help. At his location, there was no cell phone coverage, and his only means of communication was through his radio. James explained that he had driven as far as he could, but had reached a locked gate at the top of the canyon. He managed to turn his truck around and was going to head back down, but his truck stalled and would not restart. James explained that his truck was all electronic, and so was unable to start it or shift into any gear to even coast down the canyon.

As we talked, James asked me to call his friend and share his situation, which I attempted, but got no response. He asked if I could call CJ, another friend. CJ answered, and I explained what was going on. During this time a dangerous storm alert came over the radio emergency channel for some nearby counties, one of which was within James' vicinity. Having contacted CJ on his phone and using ham radio, we were able to get James' exact location in between two campgrounds on the Mount Nebo Loop.

It took about three hours, but once Dave made the phone calls and relayed the necessary information between James and his friends, the tow truck was able to locate James and his stranded vehicle, and tow him to safety.



James Bennett KK7AVS

There were a few tense moments when we had concerns for his safety, but everything worked out, and we were grateful for the use of amateur radio, which made the entire rescue possible. All it required was listening, making a few phone calls, and using radio for emergency communication.

James was on a "mission" as secretary for his club (Utah Amateur Radio Club) to scout out a Field Day location. He later sent me an email thanking me for my small part in helping him, and has encouraged me to share this story with others.

Dave serves as the organizer for the Eagle Mountain Emergency Communication Team and served that day as Net Control for the Eagle Mountain Pony Express Days parade.